

Serial No. 09/634,501
Docket No.: NEC00P244-as
WAK.061

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

The allowance of claims 3-6, 8-10, 14-18, 20-21, 23 and 26 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-2, 7, 11-13, 19, 22 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Thuringer, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,199,763. While Applicant disagrees with such a rejection, to speed prosecution, these claims have been canceled, leaving only the allowed claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3-6, 8-10, 14-18, 20-21, 23 and 26, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

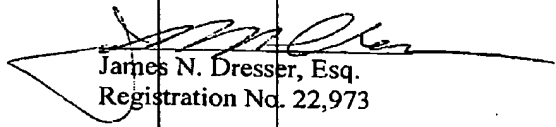
To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including

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extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account
No. 50-0481.

Date: April 4, 2005

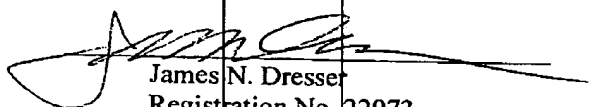
Respectfully Submitted,


James N. Dresser, Esq.
Registration No. 22,973

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 by facsimile
with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Kevin Michael Burd, Group
Art Unit 2631 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 4th day of April 2005.


James N. Dresser
Registration No. 22973

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